

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: ICRC DELEGATES' VISIT TO DETAINEES

REF: ADDIS 14856

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ETHIOPIAN HERALD PUBLISHED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ON DECEMBER 14 DESCRIBING ICRC DELEGATES' VISIT TO "SOME 200 PRISONERS NOW IN DETENTION IN ETHIOPIA ON VARIOUS CHARGES." ARTICLE THAN QUOTED FOLLOWING ICRC STATEMENT ISSUED DECEMBER 13: QUOTE. BETWEEN DECEMBER 11 AND 13, THE DELEGATE GENERAL FOR AFRICA OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS ACCOMPANIED BY THE TWO REGIONAL DELEGATES FOR EASTERN AFRICA AND A MEDICAL DELEGATE HAVE VISITED SOME 200 PERSONS ARRESTED IN ETHIOPIA SINCE THE 27TH APRIL, 1974, FOR POLITICAL MOTIVES OR CRIMES. THEY MET THE DEPOSED EMPEROR IN THE HOUSE WHERE HE IS PRESENTLY DETAINED ON THE GROUNDS OF THE MENELIK SECOND PALACE AND OTHER DETAINEES WITHIN THE COMPOUND OF THE 4TH ARMY DIVISION, IN MENELIK SECOND PALACE AND IN TWO POLICE STATIONS.

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THEY ALSO VISITED 21 MEMBERS OF THE EX-EMPEROR'S FAMILY WHO ARE KEPT UNDER PROTECTIVE CUSTODY IN THE DUKE OF HARAR'S VILLA AND THE HOUSE OF THE COMMANDER OF THE BODY GUARDS.

THROUGHOUT THEIR VISITS THE ICRC DELEGATES COULD SPEAK IN PRIVATE WITH ALL DETAINEES OF THEIR CHOICE.

FOLLOWING THEIR VISITS, THE DELEGATES PRESENTED THEIR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF THE "DIRG." AMONG OTHER POINTS, IT WAS AGREED THAT SUCH VISITS WOULD BE REPEATED IN THE FUTURE, IF NECESSARY. UNQUOTE.
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COMMENT. REFTTEL CONTAINS ADDITIONAL SUBSTANCE ON ICRC VISITS. DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT SIX PLACES OF DETENTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE LISTED AS ACTIVELY IN USE.
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